

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (previously amended) A device for implanting in the vasculature or cardiovascular for treating a disease, comprising:
 - a) a biodegradable matrix material capable of dissolving upon contact with blood,
 - b) one or more particles incorporated into the biodegradable matrix material, and,
 - ~~b~~c) at least one drug coated onto or incorporated into the one or more particles and capable of being released into the blood stream as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves,said device having a ring-like structure, and capable of degrading gradually and completely as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves.
2. (cancelled).
3. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising a polymeric material, a metallic material, or a combination thereof.
4. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising an epoxy, polyester, acrylic, nylon, silicone, polyanhydride, polyurethane, polylactide poly(L-lactide), poly(D-lactidepoly), copolymer derived therefrom polylactide poly(L-lactide) or poly(D-lactidepoly), polycarbonate, poly(tetrafluoroethylene) (PTFE), polycaprolactone, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, poly(vinyl chloride), polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polypropylene oxide, poly(akylene)glycol, polyoxyethylene, sebacic acid, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), polymethyl methacrylate, 1,3-bis(carboxyphenoxy)propane, phosphatidylcholine, triglyceride, polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB), polyhydroxyvalerate (PHV), poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO), poly ortho ester, poly (amino acid), polycynoacrylate, polyphosphazene, polysulfone, polyamine, poly (amido amine), siloxane-based elastomer, siloxane-based elastomer comprising 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl groups, lipid, isopropyl styrene, flexible fluoropolymer, vinyl pyrrolidone, cellulose acetate dibutyrate, silicone rubber, hydroxapatite, fibrin, manganese-

lithium alloy comprising from about 0.5 wt % to about 20 wt % of lithium, or any combination thereof.

5. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising a naturally occurring protein, elastin, collagen, albumin, keratin, fibronectin, silk, silk fibroin, actin, myosin, fibrinogen, thrombin, aprotinin, antithrombin III, genetically engineered protein polymer consisting of ~~silk-like blocks, elastin-like blocks, collagen-like blocks, laminin-like blocks,~~ fibronectin-like blocks, ~~a combination of silk-like and elastin-like blocks,~~ or any combination thereof.
6. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising a shape-memory effect material.
7. (cancelled).
8. (cancelled).
9. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said at least one drug comprising a resin, fibrate, niacin, statin, paclitaxel, adenosine, spironolactone, alteplase, amlodipine, amiodarone, anistreplase, aspirin, atenolol, atropine, abciximab, captopril, carvedilol, celecoxib, chlorothiazide, cholestyramine, clofibrate, clopidrogel, digoxin, dipyridamole, disopyramide, dobutamine, dofetilide, dopamine, enalapril, epinephrine, felodipine, flecainide, furosemide, losartan, lovastatin, metoprolol, minoxidil, nifedipine, nimodipine, pravastatin, procainamide, propranolol, protamine, simvastatin, sotalol, streptokinase, ticlodipine, urokinase, verapamil, warfarin, or any combination thereof.
10. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, said at least one drug ~~being a niacin or a statin~~ comprising an anti-inflammatory agent.
11. (cancelled).
12. (currently amended) A device according to claim 14, said one or more particles comprising iron oxide (Fe₃O₄), titanium, titanium alloy, titaniumoxide (TiO₂), manganese oxide, magnesiumoxide, palladium oxide, palladiumcobalt, ceramic, bioceramic, glass bioglass, glass-ceramic, resin, cement, hydroxyapatite, calcium sulfate, Al₂O₃, tricalcium

- phosphate, calcium phosphate salt, alginate, carbon, cobalt-based alloy, stainless steel-based alloy, titanium-based alloy, zirconium oxide, zirconia, aluminum-based alloy, vanadium-based alloys, molybdenum-based alloy, nickel-based alloy, iron-based alloy, zinc-based alloy, zinc phosphate, zinc polycarboxylate, or any combination thereof.
13. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, comprising a drug releasing agent.
 14. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising at least one depot for storing the at least one drug, wherein the at least one depot open as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves or degrades.
 15. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, comprising Zyn-Linkers.
 16. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, comprising a binder.
 17. (previously amended) A device according to claim 16, said binder comprising a synthetic polymer, dextran, any sugar based substance, starch, chitosan, agarose, albumin, or any combination thereof.
 18. (currently amended) A device according to claim 14, said one or more particles having a diameter in the range from about 40 nanometers to about 1 micrometer.
 19. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~comprising said~~ one or more particles being capable of changing the contrast in a radiological imaging system.
 20. (previously amended) A device according to claim 19, said one or more particles comprising iron-oxide (Fe_3O_4), titanium, titanium-alloys, titaniumoxide (TiO_2), manganese oxide, magnesiumoxide, palladiumoxide, palladiumcobalt, ^{90}Y , ^{133}Xe , $^{81\text{m}}\text{Kr}$, ^{111}In , $^{133\text{m}}\text{In}$, ^{201}Th , or any combination thereof.
 21. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said device being attached to a vessel wall via mechanical expansion and clamping.

22. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said device being attached to a vessel wall via glue.
23. (cancelled).
24. (cancelled).
25. (cancelled).
26. (cancelled).
27. (cancelled).
28. (cancelled).
29. (cancelled).
30. (cancelled).